

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Inventor: David J. HOUSTON et al. Group Art Unit: 3711

Application No.: 10/707,831

Examiner: R. CHIU

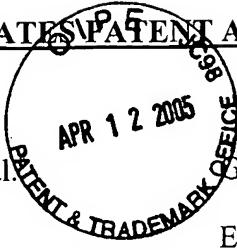
Filed: January 15, 2004

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Customer No.: 35161

For: PING PONG RETURN DEVICE

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

| 04/13/2005 SZEWDIE1 00000148 10707831
| 01 FC:1806 180.00 0P

Sirs:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the attention of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08A. It is requested that the information on Form PTO/SB/08A be considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record and appear among the "References Cited" on any issued patent.

The references include foreign patent documents. German Patent No. DE3413247, with english language abstract; French Patent No. FR2637811, with english language abstract; French Patent No. 2776935, with english language abstract; Japanese Patent No. 10192469, with english language abstract; and Japanese Patent No. 11239626, with english language abstract.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date and after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance. Accordingly, the statutory fee of \$180.00 is attached via credit card authorization. The Commissioner is directed and authorized

to charge any additional fees or any underpayment of fees which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 04-1061.

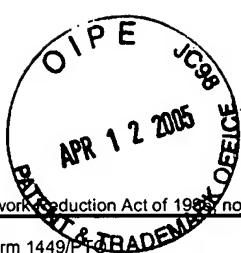
This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed along with a response to a Non-Final Office Action dated January 12, 2005.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,


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Date: April 12, 2005



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PTO/SB/08A (08-03)

Substitute for form 1449/P-F

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 1

Complete if Known

Application Number	10/707,831
Filing Date	January 15, 2004
First Named Inventor	David J. HOUSTON
Art Unit	3711
Examiner Name	R. CHIU
Attorney Docket Number	28647.00002

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
		FR2776935	10-08-1999	Seegner Luc		
		DE3413247	08-01-1985	Haak Gilbert		
		JP10192469	07-28-1998	J Fuitsuto		
		JP11239626	09-07-1999	Tsukamoto Kogyo		
		FR2637811	04-20-1990	Vidal Albert		

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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